

HOLLYWOOD STARS SIGN GEORGE VICO

'Winter of Work' Seen to Change City Dump Into Baseball Mecca



AUG. 16, 1954 TORRANCE HERALD Five

Three Fields For Baseball To Be Built

Steps toward making Torrance a Heaven for small baseball players were taken Tuesday when the City Council granted the Babe Ruth and Little Leagues a five year lease of former city dump land at Plaza Del Amo and Border Ave. for the total price of \$5.

Now all that is needed is a winter of hard work by dads of the young diamond stars, according to Ken Roberts, secretary of the Little League executive board.

Plans call for construction of two Little League fields and one full-size ball diamond for Babe Ruth play.

This means that valuable bleachers and fence materials will have to be crated and moved from the present Little League field on Crenshaw Blvd. near Pacific Coast Hwy. to the new site. Also that materials will have to be donated to construct new fences and bleachers and that long hours of work will be needed to level and clear the dump land.

The present Little League layout represents an investment of \$7000 in donated labor and materials and has been used for two seasons. The Babe Ruth League, which used Torrance Park this season, will come into its own next year with a regular home field.

Little League spokesmen anticipate that there will have to be three leagues next year—which means building yet another field, or doubling up on one.

VENICE ENTERS TOURNAY FINALS AGAINST COLTON

Venice, the team that eliminated Torrance from the Little League playoffs, entered the finals yesterday against Colton—with a trip to the national finals at Williamsport the reward for the winner.

Venice edged the local team 7-5 in the sectional finals at Glendale Saturday. A victory over the strong Venice team would have given Torrance the favorite's role in the Santa Monica tournament.

VENICE EDGED LOCAL TEAM 7-5 IN SECTIONAL FINALS AT GLENDALE SATURDAY. A VICTORY OVER THE STRONG VENICE TEAM WOULD HAVE GIVEN TORRANCE THE FAVORITE'S ROLE IN THE SANTA MONICA TOURNAMENT.

Marines Aim For 15th Win in Row

Local softball fans are still waiting for some David to come along and knock off the Goliath Marine Clerks, who won their 14th consecutive city softball game Thursday over the hapless Waleria BMC, 13-4.

And if anyone is going to do it at all, it will have to be Pre-Cast Concrete. The Pre-Cast boys tangle with the first-place Clerks tonight at Torrance Park in the last game of the season for both teams.

A loss would be shrugged off by the Clerks anyhow—they've already wrapped up the pennant for '54, but a perfect season and 15 straight wins would no doubt please them.

They took the Walerians into camp by piling up 10 hits at will and scoring with leisure in every frame but the fourth, when Leigh Harline whiffed the side.

Tight Till Third It was a 5-4 ballgame going into the third, however. The Clerks had drawn first blood with a vicious hitting attack in the opening stanza. Roy Pederson and Andy Anderson slashed doubles and Larry Benedetti and Miley Cowart added singles to a four-run rally.

But Waleria took advantage of five bases on balls and singles by Gene Davis and Bob Sumpter in the second to tie the score. After this frame, Clerk pitcher Marv Gebhard was hooked for Jim Jackson, who stifled the Walerians on no hits and no runs until the seventh when Tommy Ito singled and Bob Sumpter doubled.

Eight Errors Help Win In the meanwhile, the Clerks chipped Harline for eight more runs on four hits and eight errors. The BMC had trouble finding the ball, much less pick-

Summer Baseball Teams To Gather Thursday in Park

As an aftermath to the Torrance baseball clinic Wednesday, Director Dick Leech has invited all boys who signed up for summer play to come to Torrance Park Thursday at 4:30 p.m. to be assigned to teams.

About 60 youths, ages 10-14, had signed up by Friday morning, Leech said. He issued the invitation at the end of the clinic Wednesday and interested youths appeared Thursday and Friday to put their names down.

Play Two Days The league will play games on Thursday and Friday at the Park at 5 p.m. Leech hopes to form a four team loop and says that it will give local fans a preview peek at next year's Babe Ruth League stars.

Leech emphasized that boys who signed up must appear at 4:30 p.m. Thursday or risk the chance of not being assigned to a team.

The High School Two-Light League will begin playing games on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 5 to 7 p.m. instead of 4 to 6 p.m. after today, the coach said. They had been playing only on Monday and Tuesday.

Leech has thrown down a challenge to any high school summer teams in other cities who would like to play Torrance. "We're looking for challengers on any day," he says.



HOMERS ARE EASY... Says Big George Vico, former first baseman with the Detroit Tigers, now with the Hollywood Stars, to young Toby Venable at the Torrance baseball clinic Wednesday at Torrance Park. George demonstrates the grip that Hollywood fans hope will help him replace the Stars' heavy-hitting outfielder, Carlos Bernier, who was suspended from the Pacific Coast League for the rest of the season Thursday.

Tiger Ace To Replace C. Bernier

George Vico stepped back into professional baseball Thursday when he was signed by the Hollywood Stars of the Pacific Coast League to replace Carlos Bernier, the Stars' hard-hitting outfielder, who was suspended for the season Wednesday for slapping an umpire.

Vico, who played in the majors with the Detroit Tigers in '48 and '49, had played this season with the San Francisco Seals and Sacramento Solons until an eye injury put him out of action. Recently, he has been working here for the Dominguez Land and Water Co. and part-time for Oscar Maples Ford Agency. He was chief instructor Wednesday at the local baseball clinic for boys.

The big slugger started in left field Friday for the Stars, although he is a first-baseman. Vico, a few years ago with his famous "Vico stretch" at first base—a split-the-splits type stretch for low throws that looked impossible.

He played with Portland in the Coast League in '46 and '47 and with Seattle for three years starting in 1950, helping them win the pennant in '51. He rapped 11 home runs with S. A. N. Francisco last year and knocked in 93 runs while toting up a .291 batting average. He had bombed four homers this season.

Standings

SOFTBALL	W	L
Marine Clerks	14	0
Longhorn Aces	11	0
Pre-Cast Concrete	8	0
Waleria BMC	4	11
Dow Styron	4	10
Harbor Hornets	2	12

SERVICE CLUB (Final)	W	L
American Legion	12	1
Lions Club	10	2
Waleria BMC	10	2
Rotary Club	7	5
Waleria C. of C.	7	5
I.R. Sportsmen	6	6
Optical Club	5	7
Moose Club	1	13

BLUE STREAK (Final)	W	L
Fire Dept.	10	2
National Blues	10	2
Fire Dept.	7	5
Midland Rubber	7	5
Torrance Gardens	7	5
Waleria Church	7	5
Local 118	6	6
Lutheran	5	7

GIRLS' SOFTBALL	W	L
Flamingos	8	0
MGF	8	0
Waleria	7	1
North Stars	6	2
Rockies	5	3

HERE'S THE Pitch!

SOFTBALL
 AUG. 16, Monday—Longhorn Aces vs. Dow Styron, Marine Clerks vs. Pre-Cast Concrete, Torrance Park.
 AUG. 17, Tuesday—Waleria BMC vs. Harbor Hornets, Torrance Park.
 GIRLS' SOFTBALL
 AUG. 17, Tuesday—MGF vs. Flamingos, Torrance Park.
 AUG. 18, Wednesday—North Stars vs. Lomita, McMaster Park.

National Blues Miss Chance To Tie League With 6-4 Loss

Fate and a determined City Workers Blue Streak Slo Pitch team stepped in and out of the National Supply team's chances of a first place playoff game Thursday.

Completely upsetting the dope bucket, the Workers edged the Blues 6-4 to explode their chances of earning a first place tie in the league and a shot at a playoff with the Fire Department B team—the '54 champs. The Blues had to win Thursday's game to tie the Firemen, but somebody goofed. So the Fire team backed into the pennant and will meet the American Legion—winners in the Service Club League—in a three game city championship series. These games will be held at Torrance Park on Aug. 20, 24 and, if necessary, 26.

Pile Up Runs The City Workers put the stopper on the National Supply boys by piling up five runs in the

Moose Outrun By Sportsmen In 15-14 Riot

In the final games of Service Club and Rotay's Sportsmen slugged the Moose Club in a ding-dong 15-14 ball game and the Lions and Rotay didn't play at all Wednesday evening at Waleria and Torrance Parks.

Neither Sam Humer's Moose nor Frank Rogal's Sportsmen seemed to care much for fielding Wednesday—they just wanted to hit that ball, and did. Each team sprayed a varied assortment of base knocks and the Sportsmen were ahead when the merry-go-round stopped.

They scored the tie-breaker in the last of the sixth and that was the ball game. Moose Club.....4 2 2 4 2-14 Sportsmen.....4 0 1 1 1-13 Fritz and Mollison, Skagas and Brian.

PeeWees To Play Opener Today

The Torrance PeeWee team will play its first game today in the Sixth Annual Southern California PeeWee softball tournament in Bellflower. They will meet Placentia at 2 p.m. on Diamond Two. The tourney is being held Aug. 16-20 at John S. Sims Park, 16614 S. Clark St., Bellflower.



HERE'S HOW... About 150 to 175 boys of all ages turned out at Torrance Park Wednesday for the first Torrance Baseball clinic, termed a huge success by THS Coach Dick Leech, director of the clinic. Leech says that he hopes to direct an even bigger and better baseball school next year—perhaps an all-day affair with instructors from the Hollywood Stars. Above, instructors Jack French, putting on tag, Gil Bennett, sliding and Harry Theodosis show youngsters how to hook into third base and also how to put a runner out.

Genes Rip Up Local Alleys

A couple of Genes have been knocking the sap out of the pins at the Torrance Bowl, spokesmen announce.

In the Tuesday night Mixed Foursome, Gene Metz, a 133 average bowler, got a high game of 204 and a 546 series to lead Team No. Three to a four point win.

Gene Lawson, Kesler for Liberty Home Appliance in the Wednesday night group, really got hot. Although only a 113 average bowler, he tossed a 254 for his best-ever game Wednesday and a 595 series to pace his team to a four point victory.

Bluebirds to Meet Atwater Merchants

The Torrance Bluebirds, rejuvenated town hardball team, will meet the tough Atwater Merchants at Will Rogers Park tonight at 8:30 o'clock in the first round of the Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation playoffs.

Will Rogers Park is located at 1335 E. 103rd St. in East Los Angeles.

If the Bluebirds win tonight they will play their second game Wednesday at the same hour on the same field. If they lose, they will enter the consolation round on Thursday, same place, same time. The tournament, a double elimination affair, will last until Aug. 29.

Winners in All-City Games Tourney Listed

Winners in a Recreation Department sponsored all-city checkers and ping pong tournament, held Saturday at the Civic Auditorium, follow:
 2 yrs. and under—Ping Pong: 1st—Gary Eubank, Waleria School; 2nd—Randall Hester Torr. Pk. 3rd—Jim Anderson, Waleria Pk.
 4 to 6 yrs.—Ping Pong: 1st—Joe Whittman, Torrance Pk. 2nd—Bob Bereskin, McMaster Pk. 3rd—Jerry Schipper, El Retiro Pk.
 8 and up—Ping Pong: 1st—Gary Smith, El Retiro Pk. 2nd—Bob Wyatt, Cranshaw School; 3rd—Tom Mills, Torrance Pk.
 Checkers: 1st—Terry Fitzpatrick, McMaster Pk. 3rd—Gary Stauffer, No. Torrance School.
 Checkers: 1st—Ray Auld, McMaster Pk. 2nd—Anthony Babanovic, Cranshaw School; 3rd—Bill Claxton, North Torrance School.
 Checkers: 1st—Hank Himmell, Perry School; 2nd—Ben Hunter, Waleria School; 3rd—Tom Fitzgerald, El Retiro Pk.

Tickets for Coliseum Aqua Gala Now on Sale
 Tickets for "Water World" in Exposition Park, are now available at all Los Angeles municipal plunges and at Room 225 City Hall, it was announced Saturday, September 3-4, at the Los Angeles Swimming Stadium and Park Department.

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